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DEMI-TASSE

Newslets.

SASKATCHEWAN statesmen are so keen on getting new settlers from the United States that they are resorting to extreme methods. The other day, Mr. W. E. Knowles, M.P., of Moosejaw, went to Omaha, Neb., and actually married a woman in order to induce her to go to Saskatchewan. What kind of a place can Saskatchewan be—at such a price?

A brewer committed suicide in Alabama the other day. If all the brewers and distillers commit suicide who is to make beverage for us when this temperance wave rolls back again? Up rise the Brothers Spence to declare, "It shall never roll back!"

Funny, isn't it, that railways which allow snow-ploughs to stand all summer on their sidings in order to prove to tourists that the summer season is short, should object to a Winter Carnival in Montreal!

The *Toronto Globe* had a heading on its English letter the other day which ran thus: "Few Men Hold Much Land." We never did believe that the Lords held one-third of all the land, and we are glad that the *Globe* has joined the Tory side. We are only sorry that the letter didn't jibe well with the heading. That of course was Stewart Lyon's fault, and Lyon always was a radical.

Now Quebec is to advertise its winter sports. What *will* the railways do?

Edmonton replies to Winnipeg and says: "We will hold an Inter-Provincial Fair in 1912." But perhaps they knew that the Selkirk Centennial had fallen forward a year or two.

Not twenty-five per cent. of the Toronto women entitled to vote went to the polls on New Year's Day. Even the attraction of a bachelor-candidate for Mayor could not make them into suffragists.

* * *

"They're Comin', Charlie!"

IN a New Brunswick town, which is populous enough to maintain four barber-shops, a certain master-barber whom we shall call Charlie after the familiar custom of the place, plied his trade. He was a native of the town, had been running his shop for thirty years, was popular, but had a "heavy hand" and an inveterate taste for politics. He would rather talk politics any day than eat, and being on the wrong side so far as many of his customers were concerned, his views, clashing with theirs, often led to wordy wars. Charlie could talk and shave at the same time, however; still his hand *was* heavy, and his opponents feared it more than his sharp rejoinders. Some were waggish and engaged him in controversy in order to hear him declaim against public abuses—or mayhap in order to set some friend in the chair squirming under Charlie's razor.

How he was brought to a momentary sense of his professional obligations occurred in this wise:

With a patron in the chair—whom we will call Sandy B.—Charlie was immersed, not in his work—had he not shaved Sandy since they both began to sprout beards?—but in discussing with a waiting customer the political evils brought upon the province by a wasteful and extravagant administration. The controversy waxed warmer, and Charlie's heat of argument increased accordingly.

"I won't say nothin' against Lem Tweedie," he conceded as he attacked Sandy's throat; "he's Governor and a townsman—went to school with him—but that Pugs—"

"They're comin', Charlie!" the man in the chair gurgled.

"Of course when Tweedie was Premier he did try to restrain that wastry spendthrift," Charlie continued, not heeding the man under the razor. "But that crowd will soon be out and they'll never—"

"They're comin', Charlie! They're comin'!"

Sandy's larynx was free now; Charlie's razor was climbing his jaw.

"What's comin', Sandy? What's comin'?"

Charlie had a sort of resentful idea that Sandy was venturing on a political prophecy.

"You've been moanin' 'They're comin', they're comin'!' ever since you sat in the chair. What's comin'?"

"The roots!" Sandy catapulted the words, for Charlie had given his head a peevish twist preparatory to scraping the other side of his face.

During the rest of the shave Charlie forgot the iniquities of the government and addressed himself to the work on hand. For at least a month afterwards his more timid customers rejoiced wonderingly in the surcease of his political eloquence.

W. C. GAYNOR.

* * *

To the Debtor.

A TOAST to the Debtor, drink hearty and deep; Though he finds all things dear, yet himself he feels cheap.

He seldom goes out but some friend he must shun;

He never goes home without finding a "dun,"

And if he should get in arrears with his lodging

His landlady then keeps him constantly dodging.

But in spite of misfortune which makes him its victim

He keeps a stout heart, and adheres to this dictum—

That, when to get straight, you have tried every plan,

You must simply continue to "do" all you can.

H. A. COLLINS.

* * *

What Might Have Been.

THE reported cable signed by "three hundred and forty-three influential Toronto people" makes it interesting to recall a message of similar design sent from London to Ottawa at the last Dominion elections:

London, Oct. 25, 1908.

Conservative Borden,

Ottawa.

Insist Kemp as candidate East Toronto. Has done much to imperialise enamelware. Anyway Russell does not congeal Empire-making bricks. Excuse impertinence interfering matter none our business. Temptation get into print irresistible.

(Sgd.) Brown, Green, White, Smith, Jones, Doe, Roe.

* * *

An Educational Problem.

AN inspector going his rounds in the primary schools propounded the following question:

"How do you parse 'Mary milked the cow'?"

Pupil—"Cow is a noun feminine gender, singular number, third person, and stands for Mary."

"Stands for Mary!" exclaimed the astonished inspector. "How do you make that out?"

"Because," answered the intelligent

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